

**Minutes of the
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
September 23rd, 2004
The Grove Hotel
Boise, Idaho**

Members Present: Julie Oye Johnson, Chairperson; JoAnn Lopez-Miller, Vice-Chairperson, Louise Krantz; Cindy Lijewski; Deborah Lund; Linda Sundstrom; Robbie Storla; Greg Bailey; Beth Eloie-Reep; Melinda Lindsey; Therese Clifford; Robin Greenfield; Dina Flores-Brewer; Hector de Leon; Dennis Toney; Barbara Rand; Jean Coil; Elaine Eberharter-Maki; Ross Edmunds; Glenda Rohrbach and Regina Hoffman-Flock.

SDE Present: Russ Hammond, Bonnie Steiner-Leavitt, Jean Taylor, and Jacque Hyatt.

Members Absent: Rick Betzer

Visitors Present: Kris Gullikson, Substitute for Rick Betzer.

Julie Oye-Johnson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:10 A.M. Julie told the Panel a little bit about herself and her career.

Julie brought up the operating guidelines, page 4. Julie presented the following for review: Change Page 4, B. 4 to read “Members are encouraged to appoint substitutes, send in absentee ballots, proxy ballots, participate in telephone conference calls or other options for participation in panel decision-making. Members who choose not to participate in alternative ways, forfeit their right to vote.” Linda moved that the Panel accept this change. Robbie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Julie presented the following changes to Page 4, C. 4 “The panel will set a schedule of meeting dates the last meeting of the current year. All meetings shall be open to the public. The meetings will be conducted in an orderly fashion.” Robbie suggested adding “tentative schedule”. Jean made a motion to accept the changes without “tentative schedule”. Therese seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Julie explained that due to no interest in the Parent Involvement Focus Committee except by parents, she was going to dissolve that Focus Committee and incorporate it into the other three Focus Committees. She presented the following Focus Committees and their membership.

No Child Left Behind and Special Education Focus Committee

Greg Bailey, Co-Chairperson
Linda Sundstrom, Co-Chairperson
Elaine Eberharter-Maki
Dina Flores-Brewer
Robin Greenfield
Hector de Leon
Glenda Rohrbach
Rick Betzer/Kris Gullikson

Recruitment and Retention Focus Committee

Melinda Lindsey, Co-Chairperson
Therese Clifford, Co-Chairperson
Debby Lund
Regina Hoffman-Flock
Ross Edmunds
Barbara Rand
Jean Coil

Secondary Transition Focus Committee

Cindy Lijewski, Chairperson
Julie Oye-Johnson
Dennis Toney
Louise Krantz
Beth Eloie-Reep
Robbie Storla
JoAnn Lopez-Miller

These committees will work to form recommendations for next year. They will have to decide which information they need to move forward.

Russ presented Recruitment and Retention information. He presented the NASDSE Grant for \$50,000 in services, which will include \$20,000. to use for a national teacher recruitment website. He also talked about the Idaho Employment Website. He noted that we have approximately 3000 hits a day on the website with most districts posting jobs on the site. The website is at no cost to districts. Special Education pays for the upkeep of this site at this time. Robin asked about Letters of Authorization (LOA's) and Consultant Specialists. Russ noted that there were 300+ this past year with 60% being Special Education. He explained LOA's and Consultant Specialists. In 2006, these emergency certifications are no longer valid. At that time, four (4) Alternate Pathways will be used. The purpose

of this program is to provide an alternative for individuals to become certificated teachers in Idaho without following a standard teacher education program. Individuals who are currently employed as Paraprofessionals, individuals who are currently certificated to teach but who are in need of emergency certification in another area, and individuals with strong subject matter background but limited experience with educational methodology shall follow the alternate certification requirements. These alternate Pathways are as follows.

- (1) **TEACHER TO NEW CERTIFICATION (EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006).** The purpose of this alternative authorization is to allow Idaho school districts to request emergency endorsement/certification when a professional position cannot be filled with someone who has the correct endorsement/certification. Alternative authorization in this area is valid for three (3) years and is nonrenewable.
- (2) **CONTENT SPECIALIST (EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006).** The purpose of this alternative authorization is to offer an expedited route to certification for individuals who are highly and uniquely qualified in a subject area to teach in a district with an identified need for teachers in that area. Alternative authorization in this area is valid for three (3) years and is not renewable.
- (3) **COMPUTER-BASED ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO TEACHER CERTIFICATION.** An individual may acquire interim certification as found in Section 015 (Issuance of interim certificate. The State Department of Education is authorized to issue a non-renewable, three-year interim certificate to those applicants who hold a valid certificate/license from another state.) of these rules through a computer based alternative route certification program.
- (3) **PARA-EDUCATOR TO TEACHER (EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006).** The purpose of this alternative route to certification is to encourage qualified para-educators employed in Idaho classrooms to become certificated teachers. The alternative route preparation program must be completed within five (5) calendar years from the date of admission to the program.

Rules may be found in their entirety at

<http://www2.state.id.us/adm/adminrules/rules/idapa08/0202.pdf> .

Regina noted that this might not allow districts to have “highly qualified teachers”. Melinda stated that a monetary reward for shortage areas might help recruitment and retention.

Russ introduced Jacque Hyatt who will be presenting on Secondary Transition. Jacque outlined what she was going to present. Russ gave a brief, broad overview of the five-year State Improvement Grant that we got in 1999 and the three-year Partnerships for Success State Improvement Grant that began this fall. Jacque

continued her presentation on Secondary Transition. Secondary Transition begins at age 14 with a plan to outline the students post school goals. Students attend IEP meetings and are urged to be involved in designing his/her post school goals. Jacque explained School Work Counselors and their roles. Jacque talked about the 3 year Partnering for Success SIG Grant and its relationship to Secondary Transition. She noted that Idaho is one of the few states that has data on post school outcomes and explained this. This shows high need in the areas of employment and participation in post secondary education/environments. She talked about age 18 to 21 programs. Jacque talked about creating "Learning Communities". This will also include training and networking programs on the net. She noted that the Training Clearinghouse would be involved with this.

Julie noted changes in the agenda as we were running ahead of schedule. Russ will present the Partnering for Success State Improvement Grant now and we will go into Focus Committees.

Russ presented the Partnering for Success State Improvement Grant. The grant is a three-year grant for \$654,000 a year. The goals are (1) An adequate supply of special education personnel to ensure improved outcomes for students with disabilities; (2) Educational teams, which include parents, have the skills and knowledge to provide effective interventions and supports in reading and math to students with disabilities; (3) Effective secondary transition services and supports will increase the number of youth with disabilities who are actively engaged in postsecondary education, employment and community activities; and (4) Effectively administer, systematically evaluate and continuously improve the project through partnerships with critical stakeholders. Russ talked about Idaho Student Information Management System (ISIMS). Greg added ISIMS information, as Grangeville is a pilot site for the ISIMS project.

The Panel took a break at 10:00 A.M. for the Morning Break and reconvened at 10:15 A.M.

Julie divided the panel up into Focus Committees. Dina shared that congress moved the reauthorization of IDEA "into Conference". This gave the Panel hope that something might still happen during this session.

The Panel broke at 2:00 PM and reconvened at 2:30 P.M.

Julie asked Cindy to present the Secondary Transition Focus Committee's Action Plan. Cindy presented the Action Plan. Please refer to the updated Action Plan for this information.

Greg Bailey presented the Action Plan from the No Child Left Behind Focus Committee. Please refer to the updated Action Plan for this information.

Therese presented the Recruitment and Retention Focus Committee Action Plan. Please refer to the updated Action Plan for this information. During her presentation, Therese made a motion to present the following statement at the Professional Standards Commission Meeting. “It is not possible to fold preparation of the eliminated endorsements into the Generalist Certification. There is a need for continued professional development to enhance in-service teachers’ knowledge and skills to meet unique student needs. There is a need for stakeholders to form a partnership to design a statewide system of continued professional development that is credit bearing standards-based and performance based”. Barbara seconded the motion. Russ explained the circumstances that led to developing this statement. The motion passed unanimously.

Greg moved to adjourn the meeting for this session. Robbie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Julie adjourned the meeting at 3:30 P.M.

Respectively submitted by Bonnie Steiner-Leavitt.

Bonnie Steiner-Leavitt